WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Yesterday...

For almost one hundred years Church Army Sisters have made an important contribution to the Evangelistic Ministry and Social Work of the Church of England. These Sisters were a part of the Children's Mission Team that toured rural England early this Century. A horse was borrowed to take them to the next village and then returned.

Today...

Sister Pat Free is one of the Church Army Sisters serving God as Lay Evangelists in the Anglican Church in Australia. Pat is an Industrial Chaplain with the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission. Other Sisters serve God as Parish Evangelists, Youth Workers, in Social Welfare, as School Counsellors, in leading Parish Missions, in Children's Homes and Hostels, and in training people for ministry.

...and Tomorrow ?

Is God calling you to serve Him as a Church Army Sister? If you are a communicant member of the Anglican Church with a realisation of God's call to full-time Christian service, a good basic education, qualities of leadership and a willingness to give truly dedicated Christian service, then this ministry may be for you. For information write to the Candidates' Secretary, P.O. Box 107, French's Forest, N.S.W.2086.

THE PIONEER

PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

CAPTAIN JOHN SYMONS - CHURCH ARMY EVANGELIST AND BUSH CHURCH AID MISSIONER - ON THE JOB AT MIDDLEMOUNT - DIOCESE OF ROCKHAMPTON.QLD.

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JULY 1981

NEWS AND NOTES

We Praise God ...

.... for the faithful support and witness of those who have shared in our ministry over many years, and we grieve at the loss of these friends.

When Miss Walton died somewhile ago, one described her as "A pillar of the Training College." She was also deeply interested in our work, and was on the Board in addition to lecturing at the College.

Another ex-Board member recently passed away. Archdeacon Clive Goodwin had long associations with C.A. ministry, and was Rector of St. Philip's Church, Sydney where Richard Gwilt was ordained Deacon in 1978.

The Rev. George Roberts of Dungog was with C.A. in England and then Australia for a time after he came to this country.

We thank God upon every remembrance of them, and pray for their loved ones in their loss.

How About a Date Next Year?

Any date is special when you use the C.A. Calendar for 1982! This is ideal to hang in the Kitchen, Study etc. and is well illustrated with new colour pictures. You can order one for $2.00 from our Bookshop .... and one for a friend?

"All Change for Coolah".

The Federal Director led a mission in the parish of Coolah, 2nd - 10th May. The Society is well known in the area, as over the years Sisters Campbell and Bacon, Captains Gwilt and Cullen have all worked in that district. The previous Rector, the Rev. Les. Turner, had been a C.A. Captain prior to his ordination. During the mission, meetings were held in all the country Centres in addition to the Services in Coolah itself. The Church congregation prayed and worked hard in preparation, and one comment made was "the spiritual life of the town has been enriched."

Easter Appeal

Many thanks to all who gave generously to our work. The total stands at $5,284.92. As we use this money to forward our work of evangelism, we pray many will find new life in Christ. May we use your gifts wisely so this vital ministry is extended.

Out and About

Church Army was well represented at the Melbourne National Evangelical Anglican Congress. As well as being responsible for one prayer group, there was opportunity to speak at sessions on both healing and the drug addiction scene.

The College Principal recently helped in the South Australian training of leaders for the Bethel Bible Course. His task was to give teaching on Teaching Teachers to teach!

The Society was again represented at the annual meeting of the General Board of Religious Education. A report was submitted on all our work last year.

Newcastle '81.

The International Conference on Pastoral Care was held in Newcastle from 13th to 18th May this year. Bishops, Clergy and lay visitors came as delegates from fourteen Australian Dioceses, as well as from New Zealand and Melanesia. Captain Payne was responsible for the books displayed and sold at the Conference. The Federal Director led one of the elective workshops entitled "Fringe Evangelism - Outreach."

Here is the news..

"IF THE GOSPEL IS TO BE PREACHED IN EVERY PLACE, THERE WILL NEED TO BE EVANGELISTS IN EVERY PLACE, WITH A GENUINE AND INFORMED CONCERN FOR THE PEOPLE THERE AND FOR THEIR IDEAS AND VALUES." This statement made by the Board of Mission and Unity of the Church of England is quoted in the recently issued Report *Advance Australia Mission*. Readers of "PIONEER" will be particularly interested in this Report concerning Mission, Evangelism, Ministry and Training in the '80's. It will be important to pray for the members of General Synod as they meet in August to discuss this and other important issues.

The very reason for the existence of the Church Army in Australia, is that there is the vital need for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be made known in such a way that people will respond. There is no problem that will not be eased, when it is shared with a God of love;
- no situation that will not be transformed, when the lordship of Christ is acknowledged;
- no life that will not be renewed, when the forgiveness of Jesus is experienced.

That is something worth shouting about! But to shout is not always the best way to be heard.

The evangelist is someone with a genuine concern. This must never mean a patronising or pitying attitude that secretly believes others are "ministered to" from a superior position. Such a *concern* would soon be rejected - and so it should - as it is only based on pride and a feeling of knowing so much better than the other person. The genuine concern of the evangelist comes from the desire that men and women may have the very best in life, and the conviction that the best can only be found in knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Concern means we will want to TELL people what God has said about man's sin, what he has accomplished through the life and death of his Son, what he demands in surrender and obedience, and what power is available to live when filled by his Spirit.

Concern will also be shown in SERVING others wherever there is need. This can never be undertaken from a distance, because warmth is not felt from afar. The life-style of the true evangelist will attract others quite naturally to the fire of genuine love God has placed in that life. Anyone who truly desires to preach the Gospel today - whether that person is a Church Army Officer or not - must be available to others. This takes time, it is costly - but it works.

To speak the Word of God, the evangelist must listen to the voice of God. It is equally necessary to be sensitive to the circumstances and attitudes of those around. This involves the need to be aware of what people are thinking and experiencing, what are their hopes and fears, just what are the pressures and pleasures for the individual and the family.

The Lord believes people are important and valuable enough to love - so must any evangelist.

In the light of all this:

LET'S ADVANCE AUSTRALIA MISSION.

haven't had any smash-bang conversions, but through conversation and prayer have established very valuable rapport with a few.

The Bible study group that meets weekly at my place is growing in fellowship, prayer and knowledge. This has been very rewarding for me and has been as much help for me as it has for the others in the group.

Overall, the working side of things is going famously and we look forward to seeing Jesus, Our Lord lifted higher through the faithful witness of His servants."

FROM REV. CAPTAIN ARTHUR MALCOLM (Priest in Charge, Yarrabah Aboriginal Mission Q'ld.)

"We are in the thick of things here at the mission, the people are coming along very well in the Christian walks of life, our men's Bible Study each Monday evening is coming along well, also the women on Tuesday and the family one on Wednesday every week; so we are kept very busy here, nearly every night of the week we have something on. Only the other night I didn't get to bed until 7.30 a.m. the next morning, dealing with a young man who was possessed with an evil spirit. These sort of things we have to cope with too, but it is all God's work so I just sat and talked with him about Jesus; he went off home feeling much better but boy, was I tired out; slept for half a day.

People are beginning to see the real meaning of what it is like to be a real Christian.

We have a good Church Council here this year, really committed to our Lord, and I believe they are the backbone of this place. We have people doing the leading parts in the ministry here; they are leading our Bible Study each week."

FROM SISTER CAROL TOKLEY (Parish Evangelist in a Team Ministry, Woden Valley, Canberra, A.C.T.)

"Things have been extremely hectic lately. This is proving to be my busiest month this year! I've just returned from a week at the S.U. camping grounds in Batehaven where I was chaplain for another Camp Pelican for years 5 and 6. We had a great time together and it is always beautiful to see the younger kids responding to the gospel. Our final time together was held in the middle of beautiful bushland and we all felt very close to the Lord!

At the moment an evangelism committee is preparing for an outreach mission in August; within the present congregation. There are many people within the congregation especially those who are on the fringe, who really don't know Christ in a real way. So we feel that in outreach, we'll start with the congregation and then work outwards from there.

The drama and music group is really coming along. People are being reached through the informal worship services and the kids involved in the group are growing through giving of themselves to God's work in this way. The liturgical dancing the kids are doing is especially beautiful and an obvious response to the love they feel for Jesus."

Of course the ministry with the aircraft is wider than just parish missions. IXK is used to transport officers to other states for deputation services, clergy conferences, and the visiting of officers in the field. When the aircraft is not filled with personnel, the space is taken up with christian books and/or equipment.

However, I want to centre my attention on evangelism in parishes through the use of an evangelistic mission. Missions are not new. In fact they started with the ministry of Jesus himself and the early Christian Church. Maybe the styles have changed somewhat over the centuries but the message continues to be: *"Jesus Christ is Lord, serve Him"* and the method: Preaching-Proclaiming.

Some people within the church have suggested to me that preaching missions have had their day. All I can say to that is: *"The Lord has sent me to preach the gospel"* 1 Cor.1:17. Experience has shown so far, and this has been unsolicited, that parishes who invite me to be their missioner expect preaching to be central in the mission programme.

"The word of God is living and active" and it says of itself, *"Faith comes by hearing the preaching of Christ."* (Heb 4:12 and Rom 10:17)

The Church Army Aerial Ministry has taken the Gospel message in word, books and action to many places including Weipa, Normantown, Cairns, Clermont and Rockhampton in Queensland. To Hobart and Launceston in Tasmania, Macksville, Kingscliff, Emmaville, Wollongong and Cooma in New South Wales. Frankston and Mt Gambier (later this year) in Victoria. In every case the word of God holds true when it says *"so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11)

God is sovereign and to see Him work in great might and in great power brings deep joy to the heart of any christian minister. I praise and thank Almighty God for the hundreds of people both Aboriginies and white Australians who under the convicting power of the Holy Spirit have surrendered the control of their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord. I thank God who in His sovereignty has touched literally the deaf and crippled with His ancient power and made them whole. I praise God for the way in which the Holy Spirit has been poured out on an entire congregation causing revival and renewal to come. This is what God is doing through the Church Army Aerial Ministry.

I ask for your continued prayer support because I believe that Gospel ministry is greatly contested by the devil, but to quote the scriptures once more *"...for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.*(Phil.1:19) St. Paul knew that victory would always come when God's people pray.

This is a great country with great opportunities for the gospel. Long ago Australia was called "The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit". Let us together under the mighty anointing of the Holy Spirit bring this to reality.

Captain Kevin Cullen